600. *Sugarcane Saccharum Officinarum Linn*— Varietal trials at Hospet. Early varieties: In the six varieties, the differences in yield were not significant but Co., 419 gave the highest yield (36·22 tons) followed by Co. 2199 (34·29) tons.

601. *Mid Season varieties.*—Co. 419, Co. 449 and Co. 650 were tested. The differences in yield were significant, Co. 419 giving the best yield.

602. *Late varieties*—Co 41, Co. 449 and Co. 471 were tried; the yield difference were not significant.

603. *Agricultural Extension.*—Three thousand and eighty-two plots, and 33 subvention farms were laid as against 1,847 and 35, respectively in the previous year.

604. Two thousand, three hundred and six bee hives are being maintained both by Departmental agencies and private bee-keepers. The largest number of hives, 358 was in Bangalore and the smallest in Arakalgud. The average number of hives per bee-keeper was less than 3 for the State, but in Mudigere it was between 6 to 7 and in Doddaballapur 4 to 5. Bee Keeping

605. The total quantity of honey extracted from 2,306 hives was 8,005 lbs. or on an average 3·4 lbs. per hive.

(iii) Sericulture.

606. The rates of reeling cocoons ranged from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2-4-0 per pound. But during the last quarter the rates of reeling cocoons dropped to Rs. 1-2-0 from Rs. 1-6-0 per pound as a result of the scare created in the raw silk market on account of the barter agreement between the people's Republic of China and India for import of 2 lakhs of pounds of China silk in exchange to indigenous tobacco. The average rate for foreign race seed cocoons was Rs. 9 and the price range was Rs. 8 to Rs. 15. Market Conditions.

607. The rate of raw silk ranged from Rs. 34 to Rs. 44 per pound of local filature silk and Rs. 16 to Rs. 33 per pound for charaka silk.

608. There was a fall in prices from Rs. 40-15 0 to Rs. 34-10-0 per pound of filature silk during the year.

609. Market prices were, however, steadier during the year. In Japan, the prices were on the upward trend during the previous year. This was due to the increase of internal consumption in Japan and consequent rise in home prices beyond the upper limit fixed by the Silk Stabilisation Law of Japan at 2,40,000 yens per bale.

610. The fall in the prices created distress to the Mysore Filature Industry in particular on account of precipitate fall. Government took steps to appraise the Central Silk Board of the distress caused to the industry by the sudden release of Chinese silk.

Area under Mulberry.

611. The area under mulberry at the beginning of the year was 1,04,000 acres. The increase in the area under mulberry during the year is estimated to be 26,000 acres.

612. The rapid increase of the acreage under mulberry was mainly due to the favourable prices that prevailed during the first half of the calendar year 1954 for cocoons. The fall in the prices of other cash crops like potatoes, onions, groundnut and sugarcane, etc., also induced the agriculturists to take to more of mulberry cultivation.

Government Mulberry Gardens.

613. About 54 acres and 25 guntas were under cultivation in the Government Silk Farms as against 48 acres during the previous year. Of these, 19—7 acres were irrigated and the rest rainfed.

614. In the farms, 18·8 lakhs of foreign race seed cocoons were harvested and were used for basic seed.

615. Eighty-five cart-loads of green mulberry cuttings 10,000 mulberry seedlings, 97,285 mulberry grafts were distributed free to sericulturists.

Seed Campaign and Seed Supply.

616. In the Mysore Seed Campaign areas of Kunigal, Bidadi and Dodballapur, the area under mulberry remained almost the same as that of the previous year, *viz.*, 2,800 acres. There were on the roll 5,456 (4,857) registered seed rearers during the year. The total number of disease-free layings of Mysore race prepared and distributed among the seed rearers during the year was 26·83 (26·6) lakhs. A quantity of 35 crores of cocoons was utilised for seed by Government Grainages, Aided Grainages and unexamined seed preparers of Mysore and Madras States.

617. Four lakhs and ninety thousand disease-free layings of foreign races were prepared and distributed among the registered seed rearers. There were on the roll 625 (607) registered seed rearers during the year. The output of foreign race seed cocoons by registered foreign race seed rearers for the year was 7·6 crores 5·79. Production of Foreign Race Seed Cocoons.

618. The two Hill Stations on the Biligirirangan Hills and K. R. Hills prepared 61,886 disease-free layings of the hill ameliorated foreign races of seed cocoons as against 66,652 disease-free seeds in the previous year. These were distributed among the Government Farms on the plains for being reared and multiplied. Hill Stations.

619. Twenty-three Government Grainages continued to work during the year. They prepared and distributed 72·37 lakhs of disease-free layings during the year. There were 138 aided grainages on the roll. Seed Supply for Industries Cocoons.

620. Practical instruction in mulberry cultivation silkworm rearing and grainage technique continued to be given in the Central Farm, Channapatna. Five candidates coming from other States, two from Bhopal, two from Pepsu and one from Madhya Bharat were admitted for training during the year. Thirty candidates of the State have completed a course of Graineur's training during the year. Sericultural Education.

621. As large number of candidates were coming forward to undergo training in Sericulture, and since facilities available at the Central Farm at Channapatna were limited, two more Centres, at Mysore and Sidlaghatta, were also made as Training Centres with facilities to train six candidates at a time.

622. There were 72 propaganda outposts during the year. Propaganda regarding the method of planting, maintenance and care of mulberry grafts was taken up intensively so as to induce sericulturists to plant high yielding mulberry grafts in place of local mulberry. Propaganda.

623. The introduction of the Silk Worm Seeds (control of Distribution) Act, 1952 in the seed areas of the State being the first step has added to the responsibility of the propaganda staff.

624. Government Silk Filatures, Kanakapura, continued to work during the year with 120 basins at the beginning of the year and the number was increased to 150 basins Work of Filature in the State.

AGRI., CO-OPN. & FORESTS.

during the year. A quantity of 22,668 pounds of silk was manufactured.

625. The production of raw silk in the Mysore Silk Filatures, Ltd., T. Narasipur, Mysore Spun Silk Mills, Ltd., Channapatna and Kisan Silk Industries, Ltd., Melur was continued during the year.

Sericulture Co-operation.

626. There were five Sericultural Co-operative Societies at Sidlaghatta, Melur, Mugur, Ummathur and Ganal. A quantity of 3·81 lakhs of disease-free layings was prepared and distributed during the year.

627. One meeting of the Mysore Silk Advisory Committee was held during the year and several important subjects for the improvement of the Silk Industry in the State were discussed, and were implemented at this Session.

Silk Conditioning and Testing House.

628. One hundred and five samples of raw silk were tested for quality.

629. The department participated in the following Exhibitions during the year. —

1. Dasara Exhibition at Mysore.
2. Congress Exhibition at Bangalore.

and 3. Exhibition held at Shimoga in connection with the Malnad Conference—1954.

National Extension Service Scheme.

630. Under the National Extension Service Scheme in Sidlaghatta Taluk, the work was concentrated in about 40 villages and 11 lakhs of disease-free layings were supplied to sericulturists.

631. Sericulture and Ericulture at Harapanahalli and Kudligi Taluks in Bellary District were being tried on experimental basis.

632. Several Development Schemes were executed during the year and they were either partly or solely financed by the Central Silk Board.

Finance.

633. The total expenditure towards establishment charges of the department for the year amounted to Rs. 7·45 (5·05) lakhs. Remittances to Treasury during the year amounted to Rs. 2·41 lakhs.